

REMARKS

Claim 27 has been amended and claims 28-32 have been canceled. No new matter has been added. Support for the amendment can be found in the Specification as originally filed, in particular, Figs. 1 and 2, page 6, lines 5-14 and page 7, line 11 to page 9, line 23.

The rejection of claims 27-32 under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, is respectfully traversed. The Applicants have amended claim 27 to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the invention. The Applicants respectfully assert that amended claim 27 complies with 35 USC §112, 2nd paragraph.

The rejection of claims 27-32 under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Helble et al. is respectfully traversed. The Applicants respectfully assert that Helble et al. do not teach or suggest a cylindrical heating zone inside the reactor having a baffle attached to the downstream end to prevent convection in a direction counter to the gas flow into the reactor. Thus, the Applicants respectfully assert that the claimed invention is patentable over Helble et al.

In view of the foregoing amendment, it is believed that the Examiner's rejections have been overcome and that the application is in condition for allowance. Such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

/RFC/Clark/

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